(b) whether payments for essential spares of these machines have been made, despite the same having not been supplied;

(c) if so, the action taken against the erring officials; and

(d) whether a complaint regarding irregularities in the supply of machinery was received and a case number 1065 was registered on the basis thereof, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) During last five years, COFMOW has purchased 7 Wheel Presses. One machine has been supplied to Mysore, but no machine was supplied to Bhopal.

(b) All the machines, complete in all respect, have been received. No payment has been made for items which have not been supplied.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A complaint against contract No. 1065 was received. However, on detailed examination, the complaint was found to be fictitious.

Misappropriation in Jodhpur Railway Hospital

†2619. SHRI RK. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has brought to the notice of Government the misappropriation committed by the employees of Railway Hospital at Jodhpur in Northern Railway, in connivance with the private chemists;

(b) if so, the amounts of losses suffered by the railways as a result thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Recently Central Bureau of Investigation have taken up one case against some officers and staff of Jodhpur Railway Hospital for alleged irregularities in local purchase of medicines.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The case is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the details are not available.

(c) Action will be taken against erring individuals, if found guilty.

Accident insurance of rail passengers

†2620. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to provide accident Insurance for rail passengers travelling in all the classes; and

(b) whether an amount ranging from Rs. 1 to Rs. 10 on account of accident insurance be printed and charged from passengers according to class of travel, while issuing the ticket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIBANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Rail passenger insurance scheme is in existence on Zonal Railways w.e.f. 1.8.1994 to provide accident insurance for Rail passengers travelling in all the classes.

(b) No, Sir.

Fare competition before the railways

†2621. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent cut in fares by various airlines in the country has created the crisis of competition before the Railways;

(b) if so, the approximate loss to be suffered by the railways on account of the fare cut by various airlines;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to cope with the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.